

**U.S. EPA REGION 10  
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Region 10 Office for Civil Rights, Enforcement  
and Environmental Justice**

**September 26, 2002**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is the policy of Region 10 EPA to incorporate Environmental Justice into the everyday work of all employees. The Region's Environmental Justice vision is based on the philosophy that just environmental protection can only be achieved if everyone is afforded equal involvement and empowerment in the environmental decisions that are made that impact them and their communities. As employees of the Region, we can only assure equity in environmental protection, if we assure that all communities regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender or income are afforded equal involvement in every aspect of work we perform.

Region 10 strives to achieve Environmental Justice through three principles:

Seek community and stakeholder involvement and empowerment - with goals of increasing communication, outreach, and partnerships with affected communities, community organizations, and tribal governments.

Implement and enforce regulations, openly addressing environmental justice - with goals of including environmental justice into aspects of all Regional activities (e.g., strategic planning, technical assistance, outreach, contract management, grants, enforcement and other regulatory activities); and incorporating environmental justice into components of work with local, state and federal agencies.

Train and diversify the work force to better reflect the diverse population - including increasing diversity and environmental justice training on how environmental justice affects individual programs and environmental actions.

The following Environmental Justice Strategies and Activities (strategy), outlines Region 10's approach for achieving Environmental Justice in all aspects of its work. The strategy describes training efforts utilizing the Environmental Justice Training Collaborative curriculum, to assure that Region 10 personnel as well as other federal, state and local governments and non-government organizations are educated in the history, theory, application, and legal aspects of Environmental Justice, as well as tools for facilitating the integration of Environmental Justice into agency programs. The strategy also describes the databases and GIS applications as well as guidance that are utilized for performing Environmental Justice analyses. Most importantly, this strategy describes the approaches that are employed for conducting and promoting outreach and partnerships with communities and other stakeholders, and increasing access to EPA, through community listening sessions, the maintenance of a web based List Serve and the publication of reports and updates. Finally, the strategy describes qualitative and quantitative evaluation mechanisms that are employed to measure success, and are utilized to improve the approaches that the Region takes to achieve Environmental Justice.

## **MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY**

### **Organizational infrastructure and management support:**

#### **The Environmental Justice Vision for EPA Region 10**

Environmental Justice for EPA Region 10 ensures inclusion of all affected parties in regional environmental actions. It is the analysis, implementation and enforcement of environmental regulations, initiatives, and grant programs to ensure that all ethnic groups, communities, and people of color, regardless of age, gender or income levels receive just environmental protection.

In addition, Environmental Justice includes preparing the Region to better address Environmental Justice through work force training and the development of a work force that truly reflects the diversity of the public we serve.

#### **Region 10 has established three Environmental Justice Principles:**

Seek community and stakeholder involvement and empowerment - with goals of increasing communication, outreach, and partnerships with affected communities, community organizations, and tribal governments.

Implement and enforce regulations, openly addressing environmental justice - with goals of including environmental justice into aspects of all Regional activities (e.g., strategic planning, technical assistance, outreach, contract management, grants, enforcement and other regulatory activities); and incorporating environmental justice into components of work with local, state and federal agencies.

Train and diversify the work force to better reflect the diverse population - including increasing diversity and environmental justice training on how environmental justice affects individual programs and environmental actions.

## **EPA Region 10 Environmental Justice Operating Principles**

As issued by Regional Administrator Chuck Clarke on September 30, 1994:

### **Seek Community and Stakeholder Involvement and Empowerment**

Increase communication, outreach, and partnerships with affected communities, community organizations, and tribal governments.

Invite community participation in informational forums and encourage dialogues before, during, and after a decision making process or environmental action.

### **Implement and Enforce Regulations, Openly Addressing Environmental Justice**

Examine and address Environmental Justice as an aspect of all Regional activities, including strategic planning, education, technical assistance, outreach, contract management, grants, enforcement and other regulatory activities.

Incorporate Environmental Justice into all aspects of work with local, state and federal agencies.

### **Train and Diversify the Work Force to Better Reflect the Diverse Population**

Develop and implement diversity and Environmental Justice training related to the work environment, communities and tribal governments, including how Environmental Justice affects individual programs and environmental actions.

Encourage and recognize greater interaction and involvement with diverse communities, ethnic groups, and tribal governments.

Hire, promote and train individuals of diverse backgrounds in all levels of Region 10.

## **The Work and Role of the EPA Region 10 Environmental Justice Program**

### **Role and Objectives:**

To serve as a focal point for ensuring that all communities receive fair protection under environmental laws and have increased access to EPA and information to participate in environmental decision-making.

To make Environmental Justice an integral part of the day-to-day activities of EPA employees, including programmatic activities, contracting, and workforce diversity.

To support the Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898, by increasing other agencies understanding of Environmental Justice so that they incorporate EJ principles into their activities.

### **The EPA Region 10 Environmental Justice Program focuses on:**

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Training:            | Providing Environmental Justice training for employees, other agencies and the public. Goal: To facilitate the integration of Environmental Justice into programs, activities, and policies and to support the implementation of the Executive Order 12898.                        |
| Analysis & Research: | Conducting analytical studies to identify and evaluate populations at disproportionately high risks. Goal: To provide analysis and research to help Region 10 develop a strategic approach for the resolution and prevention of Environmental Justice issues.                      |
| Outreach:            | Conducting and promoting outreach and partnerships with communities and other stakeholders, and increase access to EPA. Goal: To empower Environmental Justice stakeholders to ensure increased meaningful public participation and access to information on environmental issues. |

**Operational resources / program support:**

**Region 10 Environmental Justice FTE Distribution**

<u>Duties and Responsibilities</u>	<u>FTE Allocation</u>
Program Management	0.3
Grants Administration	0.2
External Stakeholder Engagement	0.7
Internal Program Implementation, EJ Analyses, and Training	0.7
EJ Analysis Assistance	0.3
Tribal Program Assistance	0.4

**Duties and Responsibilities of Region 10 Environmental Justice Coordinators**

The Environmental Justice Coordinators are the lead personnel for implementing the Environmental Justice program in Region 10. The Coordinators review grant applications, serve as Grant Project Officers, provide training, perform Environmental Justice analyses, develop reports, supervise interns, and coordinate external and internal outreach efforts. The Environmental Justice Coordinators also participate in Environmental Justice related conferences, NEJAC meetings, and workshops, as well as lecture at local colleges and universities.

**GPRA alignment:**

Regional Environmental Justice resources benefit all regional resources and are covered under a regional methodology to assign the resources to the different highly funded FTE regional GPRA goals. Environmental Justice resources are charged under Water (20201B), Tribal (407XXB), OSWER (50105D), Enforcement and Compliance (90102E), and some project specific resources are charged to superfund GPRA goals.

Office for Civil Rights, Enforcement, and Environmental Justice (OCREEJ) personnel work with Region 10 Offices, utilizing formal training sessions and one-on-one meetings, to educate and identify areas within programs where Environmental Justice can be addressed. Efforts focus on the statutory and regulatory authorities of Federal Environmental laws to secure Environmental Justice. OCREEJ provides formal reviews of NEPA documents, permits, and inspection plans to assure that Environmental Justice is adequately addressed.

Region 10 has Performance Partnership Agreements (PPA) with Oregon and Washington state environmental agencies that include specific action items that address the development of Environmental Justice programs and the inclusion of Environmental Justice principles in their agencies' everyday work. Region 10 will continue to work with the Alaska and Idaho state

environmental agencies to develop and include PPA action items that address the development of agency wide Environmental Justice programs.

## **INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONAL ENGAGEMENT**

### **EPA Region 10 Environmental Justice Core Group**

The EPA Region 10 Environmental Justice Core Group is a diverse group of employees representing every Region 10 Office. Core Group members are considered the designated Environmental Justice representatives for their Office and serve as the primary Environmental Justice contact for their program. The Core Group plays a key role in incorporating Environmental Justice into the everyday work of all EPA Region 10 offices. The Core Group also:

Serves as advisory board to Regional Environmental Justice.

Reviews grant applications.

Participates in Regional Environmental Justice Workshops.

## **EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

### **Region 10 process to place and receive input on EJ issues from external stakeholders**

An outreach activity will be held in October of 2002 with a keynote speaker and a question and answer session. The purpose of the questions and answer session will be to share and connect with the EJ community and stakeholders.

A listening session will be held in 2003 with EJ stakeholders and the information will be gathered and directed to the appropriate EPA Regional offices for answers and to assist with connecting the offices with the EJ stakeholders. Information will also be used to help establish new areas to incorporate into EPA Region 10's strategy plan and regional action items for an updated EJ outreach regional action plan.

### **Region 10's ongoing mechanisms to share information to external groups regarding EJ**

An EJ Update publication with EJ community, EPA, and EJ news on various EPA and non-EPA EJ activities, success stories, and heated issues are included in the publication. The EJ community members, non-profit, EJ organizations and potential EJ grant applicants will benefit from this publication.

### **Region 10's identification of stakeholders who will benefit from increased awareness about EJ with the goal of engaging in a collaborative problem solving process**

OREEJ has and will connect with the EJ community and ask the community to assist in identifying stakeholders who will benefit from the EJ collaborative problem solving. Also when a site specific issue occurs, OCREEJ connects with the EJ community and EJ community organizations to help and determine who the key stakeholders may be in a specific area or issue. OCREEJ will also continue to connect with the specific EPA office that may be working on a site specific issue and inform the office of the key stakeholders who should be invited to participate in a collaborative problems solving process.

### **Region 10's promotion of collaborative problems solving among stakeholders**

Promotion of collaborative problem solving among stakeholders will be discussed in internal and external outreach presentations conducted by OCREEJ. This education process has and will continue to be used. Constant reinforcement of the need and benefits of solving problems in a collaborative process will be discussed both in formal presentations and in informal discussions.

An article with the benefits of collaborative problem solving will be written and published in the next OCREEJ Update produced. Community groups who have solved problems in a collaborative process will also be highlighted.

### **Bi-lingual information used for EJ outreach**

EPA Region 10 use of bi-lingual information include the EJ Public Participation booklet, EJ Grants Guidance and Application, EJ site specific information produced by the Community Involvement Unit which is and will be developed depending upon the specific language spoken by the participants in various EPA public hearings and community meetings.

### **EJ Grant Programs**

EPA Region 10's EJ Grant Program is listed as a funding priority. The program will receive the amount of money determined by EPA Headquarters.

## **DATA COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT, AND EVALUATION**

### **Region 10 EPA Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**

Region 10's GIS program, in the Office for Environmental Management and Information, provides data and mapping services that are utilized as tools for Environmental Justice analyses. Information regarding the number, type and locations of facilities and the demographics of an area, can be accessed from the Region 10 Office of Environmental Assessment home page at:

**<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/r10gis/r10mapseries.html>**

This site provides instructions on how to make your own maps and text reports of human and environmental concerns for all areas in Region 10 (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington) specified by latitude/longitude, basin, zip code or tribal domain. In addition, from this site you are able to browse the EPA Region 10 GIS Map Library, Environmental Data Library, and the Envirofacts Data Warehouse.

Additional information for Environmental Justice analyses is gathered from the U.S. Census Bureau web site (<http://www.census.gov/>) and the Government Information Sharing Project (<http://govinfo.library.orst.edu/>) web sites.

## **PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Region 10 is an active member of the Environmental Justice Training Collaborative (EJTC) and utilizes the EJTC curriculum for training internally to staff and managers, and externally with other federal, state and local agencies, and non-government organizations. Region 10 will continue to provide training on a routine basis internally and on an as requested basis externally.

A formal evaluation form, seeking both quantitative and qualitative feedback, is distributed at every training session. The results of these evaluations are reviewed by the trainers, discussed with the trainer's supervisor, and the quantitative results, included in a database maintained by the Office for Civil Rights, Enforcement and Environmental Justice.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ASSESSMENT**

Region 10 EPA performs Environmental Justice assessments for permit reviews, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) development and review, strategic planning and outreach efforts. Environmental Justice assessments are performed utilizing the following guidance:

Guidance for Incorporating Environmental Justice Concerns in EPA's NEPA Compliance Analyses; US EPA; April 1998.

Environmental Justice Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act; Council on Environmental Quality; December, 1997.

National Guidance for Conducting Environmental Justice Analyses [Peer Review Version]; US EPA; October, 1998.

Region 10's GIS program provides data and mapping services that are utilized as an analysis tool for Environmental Justice. Information regarding the number, type and locations of facilities and the demographics of an area, are accessed from this GIS program. Additional information/databases are can be accessed via links from this program as well as the U.S. Census Bureau and the Government Information Sharing Project web sites. Health data, when needed, is obtained from state and local health agencies.

## **PROGRAM EVALUATION**

Accomplishments and results from the Region 10 Environmental Justice program are highlighted in reports to the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, the Agency's Biennial Environmental Justice Report, and the annual Region 10 Environmental Justice Update. In addition, formal written evaluations are distributed to all participants in training and public listening sessions. These evaluations are both quantitative and qualitative and the results are discussed during event 'lessons learned' meetings and maintained in a database.

Attachment B

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES MATRIX**

**GOAL #1:** Providing Environmental Justice training for employees, other agencies and the public.

Goal: To facilitate the integration of Environmental Justice into programs, activities, and policies and to support the implementation of the Executive Order.

<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Duration/ Due Date</b>	<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>Resources (FTE/\$)</b>	<b>Lead Contact</b>
1. Provide EJ training to Region 10 personnel	1a. Train 2 Region 10 personnel as trainers of the Environmental Justice Training Collaborative curriculum.	1a. Winter 2002/2003	1a. Completed Train-the-Trainer sessions.	1a. 2 FTE & associated training expenses	Susanne Salcido
	1b. Provide EJ Training to Region 10 personnel.	1b. Summer 2003	1b. Completed training sessions	1b. 1 FTE & associated training expenses	
2. Provide EJ training to federal, state and local governments and NGOs.	2a. Train 2 Region 10 personnel as trainers of the Environmental Justice Training Collaborative curriculum	2a. Winter 2002/2003	2a. Completed Train-the-Trainer sessions.	2a. 2 FTE & associated training expenses	Susanne Salcido
	2b. Provide EJ Training	2b. As needed	2b. Completed training sessions	2b. 1 FTE & associated training expenses	

**GOAL #2:** Conducting analytical studies to identify and evaluate populations at disproportionately high risks.

Goal: To provide analysis & research to help Region 10 develop a strategic approach for the resolution and prevention of Environmental Justice issues.

Strategies	Activities	Duration/ Due Date	Performance Measures	Resources (FTE/\$)	Lead Contact
1. Update EJ GIS application to reflect results from 2000 Census.	1a. Obtain 2000 Census income and demographic data.  1b. Identify block groups by income and demographic screening criteria.  1c. Incorporate block group screening criteria into EJ GIS application.	1a. Fall - 2002  1b. Fall - 2002  1c. Winter - 2002/2003	1a. Data obtained.  1b. Block groups identified.  1c. Application available for use.	1a. 0.10 FTE  1b. 0.10 FTE  1c. 0.10 FTE	Ray Peterson, Office of Environmental Management and Information
2. Perform EJ Analyses	2a. Perform EJ Analyses for EIS review/development, permit reviews, strategic planning and public outreach.	2a. As needed	2a. Analyses performed	2a. 0.50 FTE	Susanne Salcido

**GOAL #3:** Conducting and promoting outreach & partnerships with communities and stakeholders, and increase access to EPA.

Goal: To empower Environmental Justice stakeholders to ensure increased meaningful public participation and access to information on environmental issues.

<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Duration/ Due Date</b>	<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>Resources (FTE/\$)</b>	<b>Lead Contact</b>
1. Conduct Region 10 EJ Outreach and EJ Listening Session	1a. EJ Outreach activity with keynote speaker. 1b. Arrange an outreach Listening Session.	1a. 10/2002 1b. 10/2003	1a. Outreach activity completed 1b. Listening Session conducted.	1a. 0.10 FTE 1b. 0.10 FTE	Victoria Plata & Monica Kirk
2. Maintain Region 10 EJ List Serve	2a. Oversight of EJ list serve and update.  2b. Screen and review current list for duplications and make corrections as needed.	2a. Ongoing  2b. 11/2002	2a. EJ list is used by Region for various outreach activities.  2b. EJ list is more accurate with new additions.	2a. 0.10 FTE  2b. 0.10 FTE	Monica Kirk & Victoria Plata
3. Develop Region 10 Update	3a. Gather data, conduct interviews and write EJ Update.	3a. 8/ 2003	3a. Update complete and distributed to external stakeholders.	3a. 0.25 FTE	EJ Summer Intern